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**Pierce Report**   
 A Newsletter from Jason and Devan Pierce

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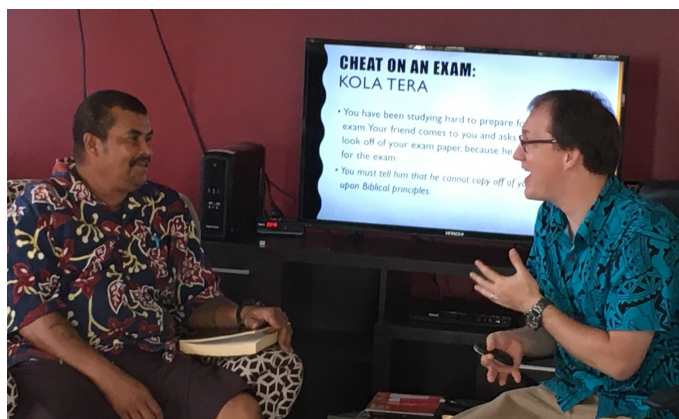
**Bula from Fiji!**

1 It is hard to believe that we have already been here for nearly  
 2 four months, and our first term has officially come to a close! We  
 3 have enjoyed such a great start to our program, and we have  
 3 some awesome students who have enrolled in the school. The  
 4 first term has involved a great deal of “trial and error” on  
 4 everyone’s part. But, we are all committed to the success and  
 growth of the school, and things have really begun to come  
 together. To me, one of the greatest signs of success for the  
 school is hearing the students preach at worship services and  
 workshops and hearing them use the materials that they have  
 learned in their classes to teach others. The students are taking  
 their classes seriously, and during the breaks you will often hear  
 them discussing the things they have learned in the classes that  
 day. They will often joke about how difficult the classes are or  
 how much homework they have been given (what student  
 doesn’t???), but they always do their assignments with care. I  
 am so excited about the possibilities of this program and the  
 quality of students that we have enrolled in it.



**2 TIMOTHY 2:2**

“...what you have heard from  
 me in the presence of many  
 witnesses entrust to faithful  
 men.”



## BIBLE INSTITUTE AT RAIWAQA

This term, I taught three classes: 1) *Life of Christ*, 2) *Biblical Foundation of Ethics*, and 3) *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. In *Life of Christ*, we talked about the life and ministry methods of Jesus. The students were required to write chapter summaries (5-7 sentences in length) for each chapter in the Gospel of Mark. They also were required to submit three textual sermon outlines for their major grade in the class – one on a parable of Jesus, one on a personal encounter with Jesus, and one on a miracle of Jesus.

In *Biblical Foundation of Ethics*, we talked about important concepts for determining what is morally right and wrong. We particularly focused on reasons for why we look to God as the source of our morality. The major assignment for this course was to participate in an ethics project. Each student was given a different moral dilemma in which they had to confront a “friend” or “relative” who was struggling with a particular sinful action. The project required them to do two things: 1) they had to write a two-page paper covering the Biblical principles involved in the topic, and 2) they had to participate in a three-minute interview with me filling in the role of the “friend” or “relative.” Instead of presenting a lesson to the class on the topic, they had to sit beside me and have a “real life conversation” with me (with the rest of the class watching) – trying to persuade me to do the right thing. Ministry isn’t just about public speaking – it also about the one-on-one conversations that we have with people who are struggling with sin and temptation. I have to say that I was very impressed with how each of the students handled their different topics!

In *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, we studied the history, world cultures, and geography that helped shape the growth of the early church. In the course, we talked about the impact that the Jewish, Greek, and Roman cultures each had on early Christianity. We finished up the course looking at several different cities of the New Testament and showing how their history and culture helps us to understand certain Biblical passages more clearly. The students seem to especially have enjoyed this class, even though it was by far the most difficult of the three classes that I taught this term. But, it is so encouraging to see them taking the things that they learned in this class and using it to enhance their preaching and teaching.



## Student Campaign: Nabouwalu

At the end of the term, we had our student campaign. This term, our campaign date happened to correspond with the date of the Fiji Workshop. This is a workshop that is held on Easter weekend each year. Each year a different congregation hosts the workshop, and the workshop alternates between the two big islands – Viti Levu (where we live) and Vanua Levu. This year, the workshop was held in Nabouwalu on Vanua Levu. More than 40 Christians from the Suva area traveled together by bus and then boat to reach Nabouwalu. In total, eight of the seventeen congregations of the Lord's church in Fiji were represented at the workshop.

We had an excellent workshop! The workshop lasted from Friday night through Sunday night. Dad and I were asked to be the keynote speakers for the workshop. We both delivered a lesson each night of the workshop. The workshop focused on the theme of the Kingdom of God. I was asked to speak on the topics of *The Responsibility of the Members of the Kingdom*, *The Purchase Price of the Kingdom*, and *He Has Delivered Us from the Power of Darkness to the Kingdom of His Dear Son*. While there, Devan and Mom were both involved in teaching both ladies' classes and children's Bible classes. During the weekend, there were several visitors who came to check things out. Four people were buried with Christ in baptism, and another person came forward requesting prayers. It was truly an encouraging week.

It was especially encouraging to see our students involved in the program, as well. Eight of our students were able to travel to Nabouwalu. Six of them spoke on the program, and another served as a translator for the evening sessions. Following the workshop, the students all stayed in Nabouwalu for an extra day. We all spent Monday out in the community passing out tracks about the Lord's church. Some of the students were even able to conduct Bible studies in the community. It is good to see our students showing a zeal for personal evangelism. One of our students and his wife even set up a Bible study while talking to someone on the boat ride back home!

## Short Courses

After our return from Nabouwalu, we had two weeks of short courses. This term, we were privileged to have brother Semi Matalau teaching a course on *Experience Speaks: The History of the Growth of the Churches of Christ in Fiji*. Brother Semi is one of the oldest Christians in Fiji and has played an important role in the growth of the church here. The students were very impressed with the class and learned a great deal. The class especially focused on what efforts were successful in helping the church to grow in Fiji. The second course was *Old Testament Poetry II (Proverbs to Song of Solomon)*. Dad taught through the books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. I taught the section on Song of Solomon. Both of the courses were held at the Naila Church of Christ in Naila village. We taught the classes there to accommodate brother Semi – who is currently wheelchair bound after suffering a stroke in 2015. The students enjoyed the change of scenery!



## Austin and Cory

I must take a moment to brag on my oldest two sons, Austin and Cory! During the first term, Devan and I enrolled them in Dad's class on *Preparation and Delivery of a Sermon*. The boys were able to use the course to get credit for a speech class. Both of the boys did an outstanding job. I was so proud of them when they presented their lessons before the entire class! They both spoke with confidence, and their lessons were organized very well. Island culture often doesn't encourage the "youths" to take an active role in leading and teaching. But, the Fijian students were very impressed with the maturity that Austin and Cory showed in their lessons.

Additionally, Austin and Cory have both been asked to speak several times for the regular youth meetings. These meetings are held every other Friday night. Usually, one of the older men of the congregation gives a message. They also ask one of the youths to give a message. Even though most of the youth group are older than Austin and Cory (several are already attending the University), they have not hesitated to get up and speak. They also help lead songs and prayers during the youth meetings. The older three boys all attend the Friday night gatherings. Once a month, the youth also get together on Saturday to clean the building and then go out and play sports together. It is a great opportunity for our boys to bond together with some of the youth at church.



## Contact Information

We want you to know that we love to hear from our friends and family in the U.S. We can be reached by phone at (931) 230-7577. This is a Vonage phone number which works over the internet. Even though it rings in Fiji, it is a U.S. number – so U.S. rates apply! We have also finally been able to set up a post office box in Fiji. Our new mailing address: *Jason Pierce, P.O. Box 7831, Nasinu, Fiji Islands*. There is no zip code! Of course, you can always e-mail us at [jhpierce.bvbio@gmail.com](mailto:jhpierce.bvbio@gmail.com). We would love to hear from you!

For those on Facebook, we have also set up a Facebook Group. It is *The Pierces: Missionaries to Fiji*. This is a shared page with Jason, Devan, Rocco, and Debbie Pierce. We often post pictures and short updates on this page of the things that are going on right now. If you want to have more regular updates of the work, we would love to add you!